

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE**January 8 - 15, 2015**

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1. [NATO Chief says Alliance Taking on All Forms of Terror](#) (01-14-2015)

By Jim Garamone

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14, 2015 – There are many different types of terror and democratic nations must use many defenses against them, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in Berlin today.

The secretary general met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel a week after terrorists struck in the heart of Paris. “Those terrorist attacks -- they were attacks on innocent people, but also attacks on the freedom of speech, the freedom of expression and our open free societies,” Stoltenberg said. “I think it just reminds us of the importance of security and defense. And we have to fight terror in many different ways. It’s about attitudes; it’s about defending our values.”

The scene of people around the world standing with the French people is encouraging to the NATO chief, and he said the alliance will continue its work against terror. “We have stepped up our information exchange related to foreign fighters,” he said. “We know that this is posing a threat to our societies, and we have agreed that we shall cooperate even closer when it comes to fighting the threat related to returning foreign fighters.”

Technologies

NATO is also developing technologies to be able to protect member states against attacks, especially related to explosives.

The alliance also works with partner countries “to enable them to be more able to fight terror in their countries and in their regions,” he said.

Allied militaries worked closely for more than a decade in Afghanistan and that is providing a solid basis for cooperation in the fight against terrorists, he said.

The German chancellor and NATO leaders also discussed the situation in Ukraine. “We see that international law is violated, and that the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine is not respected,” Stoltenberg said. “We call on Russia to respect the Minsk agreements, to use all its influence on the separatists to make them respect the ceasefire and (for Russia) to withdraw the support for the separatists.”

No Confrontation with Russia

Stoltenberg stressed the alliance does not seek confrontation with Russia. “NATO aspires for a more constructive and cooperative relationship with Russia,” he said. “But to be able to establish that, Russia must want it too.”

Russia must respect the core values and the rule-based system that NATO nations have strived to establish in Europe, he said.

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[NATO](#)

2. Kerry Expresses Support for U.N., Russian Peace Efforts in Syria (01-14-2015)

By VOA News

Washington — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has expressed support for U.N. efforts to halt the fighting in the Syrian city of Aleppo, as well as for Russia’s bid to restart peace talks for the war-torn nation.

Kerry spoke Wednesday alongside the U.N. envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura after the two met in Geneva.

The secretary said de Mistura’s plan to freeze fighting in Aleppo through a series of locally negotiated truces to allow in humanitarian aid is part of a “very complicated but very important effort” to make progress in Syria.

De Mistura is due to return to Damascus the week of January 19. He met in November with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who called the proposal something “worth studying.”

The U.N. envoy said January 14 that Aleppo is an “iconic example” of how the violence could end and bring hope to Syrians who are tired of nearly four years of conflict.

Russia has proposed hosting peace talks at the end of January between Assad’s government and opposition groups who are trying to push him from power. Syria’s Foreign Ministry has expressed a willingness to participate, but bringing together negotiations with the multiple opposition groups remains a challenge.

Kerry said he hopes “the Russian efforts could be helpful.”

Two rounds of U.N.-brokered peace talks held a year ago ended with little progress.

The conflict in Syria began in March 2011 as peaceful protests, but spun into a civil war that has killed more than 200,000 people. The U.N. says there are now 3.7 million Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. The fighting has displaced another 6.5 million people within Syria.

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[Kerry, U.N. Special Envoy for Syria After Meeting in Geneva](#)

3. Obama Unveils Next Steps in Cybersecurity Plan (01-13-2015)

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jake Richmond
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13, 2015 – Continuing an effort to help defend the nation’s computer-connected systems, President Barack Obama announced today additional steps that call for more information sharing, modernized law enforcement and updated security data breach reporting.

“Cyber threats pose an enormous challenge for our country,” the president said. “As long as I’m president, protecting America’s digital infrastructure is going to remain a top national security priority.”

Speaking at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center in Arlington, Virginia, Obama said since much of the nation’s critical infrastructure -- financial systems, power grids, pipelines, health care systems -- runs on networks connected to the Internet, cybersecurity is a matter of public safety and of public health. He noted that most of that infrastructure is owned and operated by the private sector, but government and non-government entities are “still not always working as closely together” as they should.

Better Information Sharing

“We’re proposing new cybersecurity legislation to promote the greater information sharing we need between the government and private sector,” Obama explained. “It includes liability protections for companies that share information on cyber threats. It includes potential safeguards to ensure that government protects privacy and civil liberties, even as we’re doing our job of safeguarding America’s critical information networks.”

The president also announced the “Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection,” which is scheduled for Feb. 13 at Stanford University in California. He said the event is intended to help shape public- and private-sector efforts to protect American people and companies from growing threats to consumers and commercial networks.

“Neither government nor the private sector can defend the nation alone,” Obama said. “It’s going to have to be a shared mission -- government and industry working hand-in-hand as partners. And

that's why I've said that protecting our digital infrastructure is a national security priority and a national economic priority."

Shared Responsibility

Even before the internationally reported hack of Sony Pictures, the issue of cybersecurity had gained prominence within the Defense Department. In November of last year, Navy Adm. Michael S. Rogers, the commander of U.S. Cyber Command, the director of the National Security Agency, and chief of the Central Security Service, told the Reagan National Defense Forum audience that network defense isn't an either-or proposition that can be neatly divided into public- and private-sector responsibilities.

"This is the ultimate team sport," he said. "There is no single sector, there is no single element of this population, there is no single element within the government that has the total answer. It will take all of us working together to make this work."

Rogers has used the term "cyber blur" to describe the convoluted way cyber attacks are both perpetrated by enemies and defended by American entities. Last October, he called for leaders in all kinds of institutions to drive the cultural changes needed to allow new cybersecurity partnerships to thrive.

The president said the federal government needs to continue collaborating on this issue, too. He said he will be working with Congress to ensure partisan disagreements don't keep the government from fulfilling its most basic responsibilities.

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[Obama to Propose Initiatives That Fill U.S. Cybersecurity Gaps](#)

[Obama Remarks on Terror Events in France](#)

[Cyber Defense a Cooperative Effort, Rogers says](#)

[Cybercom Chief Calls Partnerships Vital to Network Security](#)

4. U.S. Offers Ukraine Up to \$2 Billion in Loan Guarantees for 2015 (01-13-2015)

Washington — The United States says it is working along with international partners to ensure that Ukraine has the support it needs as it moves forward with reforms aimed at restoring economic stability and laying the groundwork for sustainable growth.

As part of the international effort, the United States intends to provide a \$1 billion loan guarantee to Ukraine's government in the first half of 2015, provided the country remains on track with the reform program it agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Treasury Department announced in a January 13 news release.

"We are encouraged by the strong reform progress made by the Ukrainian authorities to date, and applaud their strong cooperation with the IMF and their continued commitment to difficult but necessary reforms," said Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew.

"The U.S. support that I am announcing today will be part of a broader international package of support to help ensure the success of Ukraine's reform program and ultimately restore financial

stability, unleash economic potential, and allow Ukraine's people to better achieve their economic aspirations."

If Ukraine continues making concrete progress on its reform agenda and if conditions warrant, the United States will be willing to provide an additional \$1 billion loan guarantee in late 2015 — for total potential support of \$2 billion in 2015, the Treasury Department said.

The proceeds of the loan guarantees will help enable Ukraine's government to protect the most vulnerable Ukrainian households from the impact of needed economic adjustment. This new U.S. support builds upon the nearly \$340 million in assistance the United States provided to Ukraine in 2014, in addition to the \$1 billion sovereign loan guarantee provided in May 2014.

"We commend the progress by Ukrainian authorities — amid extraordinary circumstances — in implementing a robust reform program, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, which includes measures to (1) tackle corruption, (2) overhaul the energy sector, (3) repair the financial system, (4) strengthen the business environment and adherence to the rule of law, and (5) put Ukraine's finances on a sustainable path," the Treasury Department said.

It added that the Ukrainian authorities have demonstrated strong progress to date, generating "positive reform momentum" despite Russia's destabilizing actions in Crimea and eastern Ukraine.

An IMF mission is currently in Kyiv working with the Ukrainian authorities to assess their reform efforts and develop a new economic support package.

Related Links:

[Biden's Call with Ukrainian Prime Minister](#)

5. U.S., Pakistan Review Economic, Security and Stabilization Goals (01-13-2015)

By Pamela Dockins, VOA News

Islamabad, Pakistan — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has praised the progress made by Pakistan's military in its fight against militants in the country's northwest. His comments came in Islamabad, where U.S. and Pakistani officials have discussed shared goals on trade, economic development and counterterrorism at a strategic dialogue session.

As they sat across from each other in a large room, flanked by their advisers, Secretary of State John Kerry and Pakistani National Security Adviser Sartaj Aziz outlined the progress the two countries had made through cooperation on projects in five areas: energy, economic growth, community stabilization, education and health.

They also announced the establishment of a sixth working group that will deal with science and technology.

Kerry said since the last strategic dialogue convened, the U.S. and Pakistan had focused on expanding bilateral investment and trade.

"Annual two-way commerce has already reached more than \$5 billion, and the United States is now, today, Pakistan's largest export market," said Kerry.

He also said the partnership between the U.S. and Pakistan had to reflect the “interconnectedness” of the region, and that included finding avenues of cooperation between Pakistan and India and working together to support security and stability in Afghanistan.

“The recent visit to Kabul by two of Pakistan’s top military officers and the head of its intelligence service are extremely encouraging signs of what I hope will be a new era in the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan,” said Kerry.

Later, during a joint news conference with Kerry, Aziz said Pakistan wants peaceful relations with its neighbors, both on its eastern and western borders.

“We hope, therefore, that the U.S. as an influential member of the international community can prevail upon India to work with Pakistan towards regional peace and economic prosperity,” said Aziz.

He also said that during the strategic dialogue talks, the U.S. and Pakistan agreed that peace and stability in Afghanistan is a prerequisite for stability in Pakistan and the region.

Related Links:

[Kerry at U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Ministerial Meeting](#)

[Kerry, Pakistani Official in Islamabad, Pakistan](#)

[U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Joint Statement](#)

[State Dept. Facts on U.S.-Pakistan Cooperation](#)

6. U.S. Troops Resuming Atlantic Resolve Training in Eastern Europe (01-12-2015)

By Cheryl Pellerin

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12, 2015 – U.S. Army troops resumed Operation Atlantic Resolve land-forces training of allied and partner forces this week as 75 Stryker combat vehicles arrived in Eastern Europe, Pentagon Press spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren said today.

The training will take place in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, Warren added, and continues to demonstrate U.S. commitment to NATO allies.

The Stryker combat vehicles are from U.S. Army Europe’s 2nd Cavalry Regiment, elements of which will conduct training in Eastern Europe alongside soldiers from allied and partner nations, Warren said, adding that much of the training will focus on individual and team tasks.

Defense Department spokeswoman Air Force Lt. Col. Vanessa Hillman said the training also will include combined, multinational platoon-level exercises and live fires involving a combination of vehicle and foot-soldier maneuvers.

Enhanced Multinational Training

According to Warren, “Since April 2014 the U.S. Army has conducted continuous, enhanced multinational training and security cooperation activities with allies and partners in the region due to increased regional tensions following Russia’s illegal actions in Ukraine.”

The Stryker combat vehicle is an eight-wheeled, air- and ground-transportable light-armored vehicle built for the Army by General Dynamics Land Systems. It has a Caterpillar engine, a 310-mile operational range, a 60-mile-an-hour top speed, and armor. Its primary armament is a Protector M-151 remote weapon station with one of two machine guns or an automatic grenade launcher.

Atlantic Resolve training involves about 550 European-based American personnel and 75 Stryker vehicles. The Stryker group is based in Germany.

Elements from the Army 2nd Cavalry Regiment are replacing elements from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas, that were involved in Atlantic Resolve training before the holiday break. 2nd Cavalry elements will conduct training in the four countries until March 31, Warren said.

“There will be approximately one cavalry troop each in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia,” Warren said, explaining that one cavalry troop has about 20 Stryker vehicles.

Training Regional Allies and Partners

Hillman said that while elements of 2nd Cavalry Regiment participate in Atlantic Resolve, the unit also will conduct a decisive-action, training-environment exercise called Saber Junction.

That exercise will take place, she said, in the German Hohenfels and Grafenwoehr training areas and in the Black Sea region, with U.S. soldiers working alongside those from more than a dozen other NATO and partner nations.

The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division -- the Army's regionally aligned force for Europe -- is expected to be the next rotational Atlantic Resolve unit when the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's rotation ends.

The Army's ongoing, enhanced training is supported by about \$1 billion in funding from the European Reassurance Initiative, Hillman said.

This allocation is designed to enable DoD to continue efforts to reassure NATO allies, she added, and bolster the security and capacity of allies and partners in the region.

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[U.S. European Command](#)
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7. U.S. Political Debates Show Importance of Foreign Policy Issues (01-12-2015)

Washington — Heated partisan debates over the best way to achieve U.S. foreign policy goals are evidence of how very important those goals are to Americans, Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, said January 12.

In a speech at the University of Louisville in Kentucky, Power acknowledged that this might be “one of the most divisive periods in American history,” but maintained that there is bipartisan agreement on the central issues of U.S. foreign policy: a commitment to national security, support for human rights worldwide and recognition that the United States “cannot afford to retreat from tackling the world’s biggest challenges.”

Some Americans, “sobered by long engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, and worn down by a seemingly endless procession of daunting global crises,” are concerned that U.S. engagement won’t do much good, she said, but added that millions more Americans, including leaders from both major political parties, recognize the nation “cannot back down from these great challenges around the world today, in which our security and our principles are on the line.”

Power cited the response to Ebola, the confrontation of violent extremism and support for the emerging democracy in Burma as evidence of a shared commitment to engage on global challenges in a way that has saved lives and advanced American values.

The ambassador said foreign policy debates in the United States are not about the goals, on which there is broad agreement, but rather on the best ways to achieve those goals.

These debates are “disputes about means, not ends; about tactics, not objectives; about how America can tackle complex global challenges, and not whether we ought to try. As Thomas Jefferson once put it, ‘Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle.’”

Currently, the most hotly contested areas regarding the best means to an end are Cuba policy and the Iran nuclear talks, according to Power.

Regarding Cuba, she said that normalizing U.S. relations with Cuba is aimed at allowing greater interactions between Americans and Cubans, and expanding opportunities for the Cuban people to shape their own future. “The reforms will make it easier for Americans — our best ambassadors — to visit Cuba.”

The ambassador added that the policy change “also denies repressive governments in the region the ability to continue cynically to use our Cuba policy to deflect attention from their own abuses, such as Ecuador’s crackdown on the press, or Venezuela’s imprisonment of key opposition leaders.”

On internal U.S. disagreements about the best approach to thwart Iran’s nuclear ambitions, Power stated that there is “clear consensus among Republicans and Democrats that we can’t and will not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon.”

A nuclear-armed Iran would threaten Israel, would risk nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists, and would seriously undermine the global nonproliferation regime that is a core national security interest, she said.

“We all agree that sanctions have played a critical role in isolating Iran and bringing the Iranian government to the table to work toward a comprehensive plan aimed at preventing Iran from

acquiring a nuclear weapon.” Power said. “And our vigorous enforcement of these sanctions is also what is helping keep Iran at the negotiating table.”

Those talks have produced some meaningful progress, according to the ambassador, by reaching a Joint Plan of Action interim agreement that required Iran to freeze the advance of its nuclear program and created a new, more vigorous inspection regime that granted the International Atomic Energy Agency expanded access to Iran’s nuclear facilities.

“The IAEA has reported that Iran has kept its commitments under the interim agreement,” she said. “We have made great strides in bringing the international community together in isolating Iran and imposing significant costs on Tehran for pursuing a nuclear program that has raised profound concerns.”

The debates themselves illustrate the importance Americans attach to the issues, Power said.

“These differences of opinion on what are the most effective strategies in U.S. foreign policy — whether we are seeking to promote Cubans’ human rights or trying to prevent Iran from acquiring fissile material for a bomb — carry the highest stakes. To fail to debate them, and to fight for what we think is the best approach, would suggest that we are not taking our responsibilities seriously enough.”

Related Remarks:

[Amb. Power at University of Louisville on U.S. Foreign Policy](#)

8. Hagel Meets With Slovakian Defense Minister at Pentagon (01-08-2015)

DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8, 2015 – Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Slovakian Defense Minister Martin Gľváč discussed issues of mutual concern during a meeting at the Pentagon today, according to a statement provided by Pentagon Press Secretary Navy Adm. John Kirby.

Kirby’s statement reads as follows:

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel met with the Slovakian Defense Minister Martin Gľvac this morning at the Pentagon.

Secretary Hagel thanked Minister Gľvac for their contributions to NATO and international security, particularly for Slovakia's offer to donate ammunition to support the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Iraq and their continued contribution in Afghanistan to include the deployment of 66 personnel to support the Government of Afghanistan.

They also discussed investments in defense. Minister Gľvac assured Secretary Hagel that Slovakia will fulfill the obligations to which they committed at the summit in Wales. Minister Gľvac highlighted that Slovakia committed to spending 1.6 percent of GDP on defense by 2020 and by 2016, they plan to allocate 20 percent of the defense budget for modernization.

Secretary Hagel and Minister of Defense Gľvac discussed deepening their strategic cooperation regarding Slovakia's military modernization plans. Secretary Hagel endorsed Slovakia's

modernization efforts, pledged his support of Slovakia's plan to modernize its helicopter fleet and urged Slovakia to consider U.S. origin helicopters to increase interoperability.

Finally, they discussed support to Ukraine, emphasizing that the U.S. and Slovakia continue to present a united front with NATO to deal with Russia's aggressive behavior in the region. Secretary Hagel particularly welcomed the humanitarian and development aid, military training, and the reverse flow of gas Slovakia is providing to support Ukraine's security.

Biographies:

[Chuck Hagel](#)

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